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From: Aultz, Erica
Sent: Tue 1/16/2018 4:20:05 PM
Subject: FW: Wolverine clips, Jan. 16, 2018

The last story, just flooded.

From: Lippert, Allison
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 10:11 AM
To: Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Robert <kaplan.robert@epa.gov>; Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Mattas-Curry, Lahne <Mattas-Curry.Lahne@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Arrazola, Ignacio <arrazola.ignacio@epa.gov>; Asque, Gillian <asque.gillian@epa.gov>; Aultz, Erica <aultz.eric@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>; Kimble, Jeffrey <kimble.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Boone, Denise <boone.denise@epa.gov>; Chabria, Monesh <chabria.monesh@epa.gov>; Cisneros, Jose <Cisneros.Jose@epa.gov>; Clark, Jacqueline <clark.jacqueline@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; Dodds, Jennifer <dodds.jennifer@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Frey, Rebecca <frey.rebecca@epa.gov>; Gangwisch, Bryan <gangwisch.bryan@epa.gov>; Guerriero, Margaret <guerriero.margaret@epa.gov>; Harris, Kimberly <harris.kimberly@epa.gov>; Harris, Michael <harris.michael@epa.gov>; Holst, Linda <holst.linda@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Klassman, Debra <klassman.debra@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Mangino, Mario <mangino.mario@epa.gov>; Mankowski, Matthew <mankowski.matthew@epa.gov>; Moore, Tammy <moore.tammy@epa.gov>; Morris, Julie <morris.julie@epa.gov>; Muniz, Nuria <Muniz.Nuria@epa.gov>; Nelson, Leverett <nelson.leverett@epa.gov>; Newman, Erin <newman.erin@epa.gov>; Peaceman, Karen <Peaceman.Karen@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Prendiville, Timothy <prendiville.timothy@epa.gov>; Schupp, George <schupp.george@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Tanaka, Joan <Tanaka.Joan@epa.gov>; Victorine, Gary <victorine.gary@epa.gov>; Williams, Thomas <williams.tom@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jennifer <wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov>; Zintek, Lawrence <zintek.lawrence@epa.gov>
Subject: Wolverine clips, Jan. 16, 2018

Wolverine PFAS press clips
US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs

January 16, 2018

**Fox 17 Breaking down the details of the EPA's order to Wolverine
Worldwide
WOOD TV Wolverine ordered to clean up arsenic, other chemicals
WZZM BELMONT WOMAN AFTER BLOOD TEST: WOLVERINE
WORLDWIDE SHOULD PAY MEDICAL COSTS**

<http://fox17online.com/2018/01/12/breaking-down-the-details-of-the-epas-order-to-wolverine-worldwide/>

Breaking down the details of the EPA's order to Wolverine Worldwide

POSTED 8:30 PM, JANUARY 12, 2018, BY [AHTRA ELNASHAR](#), *UPDATED AT 11:37PM, JANUARY 12, 2018*

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. -- The Environmental Protection Agency has served West Michigan-based shoemaker Wolverine Worldwide a long to-do list to fix a mess it made for decades.

As families in northern Kent County search for explanations for their cancer diagnoses and a variety of seemingly random health issues, the EPA is making its facts known about the hazardous chemicals found at the sites of Wolverine's former tannery property and the House Street dump site.

A "unilateral administrative order for removal actions" requires Wolverine to plan and execute what is essentially a massive clean-up effort of two properties that are contaminated by chemicals likely from the company's waste.

[Read the full order](#)

According to the order, the EPA found dangerous levels of chemicals, including arsenic, ammonia, chromium, hexavalent chromium, cadmium, cyanide, lead, mercury, selenium and more on these sites.

The EPA order states "the groundwater in the area of the tannery property is vulnerable to contamination from the land surface due to highly permeable sand and gravel soils that are part of the local geology." The agency goes on to say that conditions at these sites likely led to harmful chemicals found in private drinking water wells in the area.

Now, the EPA is making sure Wolverine doesn't spare any detail or expense to fix the situation.

According to the order's action memorandum, Wolverine must submit a work plan to the EPA of how the company will:

- Eliminate the hazardous substances found on these sites

- Protect the workers who perform the clean-up
- Report all progress and issues to the EPA
- Give the EPA access to all work and samples obtained during the process
- Foot the bill of any and all costs associated with the clean up as well as all of the EPA's costs connected to the order

If Wolverine violates any provision of the order, they will face a fine of up to \$53,907 per day. The company does have the right to contest anything in the order, but it requires a lengthy legal process involving the EPA.

This order only applies to the tannery property on Main Street in Rockford and the House Street disposal area in Plainfield Township. Other dump sites have yet to be fully evaluated by the EPA.

<http://woodtv.com/2018/01/12/wolverine-ordered-to-clean-up-arsenic-other-chemicals/>
Wolverine ordered to clean up arsenic, other chemicals

Ken Kolker and 24 Hour News 8 web staff

Published: January 12, 2018, 6:28 pm Updated: January 12, 2018, 11:11 pm

ROCKFORD, Mich. (WOOD) — Federal authorities are cracking down on dangerous levels of hazardous chemicals other than PFAS, the likely carcinogen at the center of a toxic tap water crisis, that have been found at Wolverine Worldwide properties in Kent County.

A 35-page cleanup order from the Environmental Protection Agency lays out the details and describes some of the toxins found at Wolverine's former tannery site in Rockford, which closed in 2009, and at its House Street dump in Belmont, which closed in 1970.

PFAS, a likely carcinogen, has been found at both locations and in residential wells in the area. But since the EPA has no enforceable limits on PFAS, it's focusing on other chemicals found to be above legal limits at the sites.

Those include arsenic, lead, cyanide, hexavalent chromium and other hazardous substances discovered during tests at the old tannery between 2010 and 2012. Those tests found contaminated soil around the nearby north end of the Kent walking trail and in areas where children swim in the Rogue River.

Then last fall, tests found amounts of arsenic, chromium and mercury over state limits around the House Street dump. They also found lead and copper in some nearby drinking water wells.

The EPA is giving Wolverine 60 days to develop a cleanup plan for both sites. Its order will force the Rockford-based shoe manufacturer to pay all the federal government's costs and also threatened civil fines of nearly \$54,000 per day for violations.

There are no solid deadlines on when cleanup would actually start or how long it would take. The first step is to determine how far the contaminants have spread.

The EPA order was issued the same day the state announced it was suing Wolverine over the PFAS contamination, a step the Michigan Department of Environmental said was simply to formalize the response. In a statement, Wolverine said it will continue to cooperate with state and federal agencies.

<http://www.wzzm13.com/mobile/article/news/local/water-worries/belmont-woman-after-blood-test-wolverine-worldwide-should-pay-medical-costs/508062065>

BELMONT WOMAN AFTER BLOOD TEST: WOLVERINE WORLDWIDE SHOULD PAY MEDICAL COSTS

Author:Noah Fromson

Published:11:14 PM EST January 14, 2018

Wolverine Worldwide should cover medical costs for people with elevated levels of PFAS in their blood, Sandy Wynn-Stelt said Sunday.

Three people in Belmont received blood test results last week showing PFAS levels over the national average, according to a Red Cross study. Wynn-Stelt's blood tested at 5 million parts per trillion (ppt), 750 times above the national average.

"I'm always going to have PFAS in my system. That's just the inevitability now," Wynn-Stelt said. "If I'm this high, I can't even imagine what Joel's rates were. He just drank much more water than I did."

Wynn-Stelt's husband Joel died of liver cancer on March 26, 2016. In August, she found out their well was contaminated with the toxic industrial chemicals dumped near the property by Wolverine Worldwide during the 1960s.

The well tested at 37,800 ppt, 540 times the safe drinking water limit set by the EPA of 70 ppt. To date, that is the highest result of more than 1,000 wells tested in northern Kent County.

Wynn-Stelt said the blood test results help her better understand her thyroid and autoimmune issues, both of which are linked to PFAS exposure. Other illnesses linked to PFAS exposure are kidney and testicular cancer, liver damage and infertility.

"You really do believe [the problems] are just a part of life," she said. "And then when you hear this, you really start to put some links together and think, 'Oh my gosh, maybe this was all related.'"

In November, officials from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

said there was not evidence to suggest population-level blood testing was necessary in Kent County. In a recent response to WZZM 13, MDHHS said it was in talks with the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) about the elevated results.

MDHHS and KCHD are working together to conduct a cancer study and PFAS health survey in northern Kent County. The release of the survey has been delayed due to consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Wolverine Worldwide aligned with MDHHS, saying science is not yet capable of having blood tests predict health consequences from PFAS exposure. Wynn-Stelt said the people in northern Kent County should be used to push research forward, and Wolverine should pay for it.

"I pray that we get studied to death by this because there's going to be other communities that have PFAS contamination," she said. "I think for Wolverine to hide behind that is pretty cowardly. I would like to see them step up and just be a leader in this."